

BEST INFORMATIONAL GRAPHIC – Any chart, map, or diagram used to present or interpret information in a clear, accurate and lively way to help the reader better understand a story or correlate data. Entries are limited to two per newspaper.

Photography Awards

Submission Requirements

☐ Photos submitted in each category must be on a separate CD. For example, the Best Feature Photo entries must be submitted on one CD, the Best Photo Essay on a second CD, Best Sports Photo on a third CD, and so on. Fill out and attach one entry form per photo/category.

☐ **CHECK AND LABEL YOUR DISKS** Before sending us your disks, verify their integrity by making sure they are readable and do not contain any type of virus. APSO reserves the right to disqualify any disk that is unreadable. Label the disk Mac or PC.

☐ **FILE NAMES** Each image will be labeled as follows: Category code, underscore, photographer's three initials and first two letters of their work city, underscore and short slug. All file names are to be in lower case. For example: bfp_abcco_slam dunk.

CATEGORY CODES

Best Feature Photo = bfp
 Best Photo Essay = bpe
 Best Sports Photo = bsp
 Best Spot News Photo = bsnp
 Best Photographer = bp
 Best General News Photo = bgnp

☐ **CAPTIONS** Caption information must be entered in the individual appropriate fields using Photoshop's "File Info" option (under the file menu). Do not use any third party plug-in to attach the caption information. Images that do not have the caption information entered in the proper fields will be disqualified. Please edit captions so they are concise. Ask yourself if the judges really need every detail in your caption to understand what they looking at. If the answer is no, then eliminate it.

The caption field should only contain the caption. It should not include any other information. Your byline, publication name and other information are to be entered into the proper field.

Object name or Title: Actual name of the file as it appears in the folder.

Example: bfp_redak_dunk.jpg

Byline or Author: Your name

Caption: The information about the photo.

Creation date: Date the original photo was made

City: City where image was taken

State: State where image was taken

Credit: Newspaper or copyright holder's name

Headline: Short name or title for your entry

☐ **PREPARING YOUR IMAGES** All entries must be in RGB mode. Some publications archive photos in CMYK. These images must be converted to RGB. The standard size is 10 inches for the longest dimension at 200 dpi. Do not apply any sharpening to images.

Categories

☐ **BEST FEATURE PHOTO** – Entries are limited to six photos per newspaper. Fill out and attach one entry form per photo/category.

☐ **BEST PHOTO ESSAY** – Entries can include work done as online slide shows, tear sheets or web printouts must accompany the photos as proof of publication as an essay. Entries are limited to two per newspaper.

☐ **BEST SPORTS PHOTO** – Entries are limited to six photos per newspaper. Fill out and attach one entry form per photo/category.

☐ **BEST SPOT NEWS PHOTO** – Entries are limited to six photos per newspaper. Fill out and attach one entry form per photo/category.

☐ **BEST GENERAL NEWS PHOTOS** — Entries are limited to six photos per newspaper. Fill out and attach one entry form per photo/category.

First Amendment Award

"This award is presented by the Associated Press Society of Ohio for a distinguished contribution to freedom of the press. The recipient committed all necessary resources to overcome obstacles on behalf of the unrestricted flow of information vital to free society. By so doing, the recipient has served the public and has honored journalism."

The APSO Board encourages you to nominate your own newspaper, or another newspaper whose work is visible to you, for the First Amendment Award. The Board would present this to individuals or newspapers which made a major contribution during the past year on behalf of the First Amendment or Freedom of Information.

If your newspaper or an individual was engaged during the past year in an effort to advance or protect the First Amendment concerns of the media and the public, or waged a battle on behalf of Freedom of Information, please enclose a letter outlining the details with your entries so that the Board can consider you.

It is not necessary for you to enter the other categories of the APSO contest or pay any entry fee to compete for the First Amendment Award.

The APSO Board may opt, at its discretion, not to present a First Amendment Award in any given year.

Entries are limited to one per newspaper.

Deadline

Entries must be **delivered** to the AP Columbus bureau by **5 p.m., Wed., Jan. 13, 2010**, without exception.

NEWSPAPER CIRCULATION

- ☐ If the entry was published in a Sunday edition, the newspaper's daily circulation shall be used to determine the proper division.
- ☐ For purposes of this contest, circulation figures from the 2009 edition of Editor & Publisher have been used.

Division V Over 75,000 Daily

Akron	110,999
Cincinnati Enquirer	193,326
Cleveland	305,529
Columbus	195,317
Dayton	111,855
Toledo	115,058

Division IV 25,000 to 74,999 Daily

Canton	62,146
Lima	31,654
Mansfield	26,657
Warren	29,206
Willoughby	36,461
Youngstown	53,819

Division III 13,000 to 24,999 Daily

Ashtabula	16,589
Defiance	17,476
Dover-N. Philadelphia	21,381
Elyria	24,945
Findlay	20,878
Hamilton	18,810
Lorain	24,091
Kent-Ravenna	17,884
Martins Ferry	14,241
Medina	13,910
Middletown	16,720
Newark	17,093
Sandusky	21,011
Springfield	23,870
Wooster	22,522

Division II 8,000 to 12,999 Daily

Alliance	11,769
Ashland	11,288
Athens Messenger	11,272
Athens Post	8,000
Bellefontaine	9,130
Bowling Green	10,550
Bryan	9,793
Cambridge	12,719
Cellina	10,963
Chillicothe	12,379
East Liverpool	8,610

Division II (cont.)

Fremont	10,368
Lancaster	11,196
Lisbon	11,353
Marietta	10,308
Marion	11,054
Massillon	11,804
Mount Vernon	9,099
Norwalk	8,801
Portsmouth	12,447
Sidney	12,923
Steubenville	12,652
Tiffin	9,055
Troy	9,277

Division I Up to 7,999 Daily

Akron Legal News	6,000
Bellevue	2,580
Bucyrus	5,478
Cin. Court Index Press	6,000
Circleville	6,690
Cle. Daily Legal News	5,000
Cois. Daily Reporter	4,200
Coshocton	5,641
Delaware	6,384
Delphos	3,682
Fairborn	3,999
Fostoria	3,790
Galion	3,848
Gallipolis	4,466
Greenville	6,468
Hillsboro	4,500
Ironton	5,228
Kenton	7,200
Logan	4,183
London	5,500
Marysville	5,982
Napoleon	4,454
Piqua	6,123
Pomeroy	3,471
Port Clinton	4,479
Salem	5,502
Shelby	4,025
St. Marys	4,470
Upper Sandusky	3,822
Urbana	5,616
Van Wert	5,500
Wapakoneta	5,300
Warren-Trumbull Cty.	5,000
Washington CH	5,235
Wilmington	7,348
Xenia	5,858



Associated Press Society of Ohio

ANNUAL CONTEST RULES FOR THE 2009 CALENDAR YEAR

Entry Forms

☐ A completed entry form **must** accompany each entry. The enclosed form should be copied for the use of entries in all of the categories (or you can type your entries into an electronic form available at www.ap.org/ohio).

☐ **Each entry should be STAPLED to the inside of a letter-sized file folder**, attached so it can be unfolded and studied by the judges. This is the only acceptable format for all categories. There are some categories where it may not be appropriate to staple, but the entries should still be placed inside a letter-sized file folder: General Excellence, Community Service, Best Special Section, Page One Makeup, Full Page Layout, Best Daily Sports Section, Best Special Sports Section, First Amendment Award and the Photography Awards.

☐ Staple a completed entry form to the outside of each file folder.

☐ When packaging entries, please place them in the order that corresponds with the order of the categories on the entry form.

☐ Make copies of all completed entry forms and place them together (*in order*) in a separate file folder. Include one master entry form listing the total number of entries your newspaper is submitting in each category.

☐ If an entry is the work of two journalists, both names can be submitted and duplicate awards will be presented. However, if more than two journalists participated in the work that makes up an entry, please write "Staff" on the journalist(s) line.

☐ Please avoid submitting original artwork.

Submissions

A story can be submitted for judging in only one category. If the same story is submitted in more than one category, all but one category will be excluded by random selection before entries are forwarded to judges.

Exception: "Body of Work" awards can contain material submitted in other categories. A letter explaining "Body of Work" submissions is helpful but not mandatory.

Online elements are permitted in all categories except General Excellence, Best Page One Layout and Best Daily Sports Section. URLs are preferred, with printouts a secondary option. Use a tiny URL or an alias wherever possible.

Syndicated stories, columns, graphics, and other materials cannot be entered. In addition, if the work of a full-time employee of more than one newspaper -- such as a statehouse correspondent or sports reporter -- is entered, it must be submitted in the circulation division of the largest newspaper for which the person works.

Work from journalists who are not full-time employees of the newspaper will be allowed as long as the entry was printed exclusively by the entering newspaper.

A letter detailing how a story or stories originated and how obstacles in getting a story or stories were overcome may accompany any of the entries.

Any corrections associated with the submitted work must be included.

Work must have been published in 2009.

Entry Fees

The entry fee per newspaper is based upon circulation:

Division I.....\$25/entry, with a maximum fee of \$225	
Division II.....\$275	Division IV.....\$375
Division III.....\$325	Division V.....\$425

Newspapers may exceed the entry limit in any category by paying \$25 per additional entry, including Division I.

*Entries in the General Excellence category must be accompanied by an additional fee of \$25 to cover costs.

Deadline

Entries must be **delivered** to the AP Columbus bureau by **5 p.m., Wed., Jan. 13, 2010**, without exception.

Mail entries to:	APSO Contest The Associated Press 1103 Schrock Road, Suite 300 Columbus, Ohio 43229
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Questions

Please direct questions to Patti Baker at pbaker@ap.org or in Columbus at (614) 885-2727.

CATEGORIES

Newspaper Awards

GENERAL EXCELLENCE – This award is based on overall excellence of the paper, including, but not limited to, breadth of coverage, readability, headlines, selection and use of photos, layout and packaging. The purpose of this award is to judge newspapers on the overall job they do for their readers, as opposed to the other categories, which focus on single efforts in newspapers.

Each newspaper must submit one issue from each of the following dates in 2009, for a total of four issues:

Mandatory date: Wednesday, Jan. 21 (Obama inauguration)

Select one date from the following three dates:

- Friday, June 26 (Death of Michael Jackson)
- Friday, Aug. 7 (Sotomayor confirmed by Senate)
- Wednesday, Nov. 4 (Ohio general election)

Third and fourth dates selected by the newspaper.

BEST PAGE ONE LAYOUT – A tear sheet or reproductions of the front pages from four dates are to be submitted along with a letter, if desired, explaining local circumstances that may have influenced the story selection and in support of editorial decisions that day. Entries must correspond to the dates in the General Excellence category: one mandatory date; one of three optional dates; and a third and fourth date chosen by the newspaper. You do not need to enter the same dates as your General Excellence entry. All four pages will be judged as a single entry.

BEST BREAKING NEWS – Print and/or online coverage published within 36 hours of a news event. (Entries are limited to two per newspaper.)

BEST ENTERPRISE REPORTING – The entry can be one story, a series, section or developing story. Entries are limited to two per newspaper.

BEST FULL PAGE LAYOUT — A tearsheet or reproduction of a full page. Entries can come from any full page without ads, including Page One. Entries are limited to two per newspaper.

BEST EXPLANATORY REPORTING — The entry can be one story, a series, section or developing story. Entries are limited to two per newspaper.

BEST INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING – The entry can be one story, a series, section or developing story. Entries are limited to two per newspaper.

BEST COMMUNITY SERVICE – The entry can be one story, a series, section or developing story. A letter explaining the contribution the story made to the community or public service may accompany the entry. Entries are limited to two per newspaper.

BEST SPECIAL SECTION – Any special section dealing with a single topic. Entries are limited to two per newspaper.

BEST WEB SITE – Judges will view Web sites for three days, selected by AP, in late January-early February 2010. Entries will be judged on content, timeliness and presentation. Newspapers that share a Web site must submit the site in the circulation division of the largest newspaper.

BEST BLOG — To recognize high achievement and dedication to the craft of blogging. Four samples are required. Provide a URL of the archived entries on the entry form, along with the printouts. Entries are limited to two per newspaper. Use a tiny URL or an alias wherever possible.

Body of Work Awards

BEST BUSINESS WRITER – To recognize high achievement and dedication to the craft of business writing. Four samples of the nominee's work are required. Entries are limited to two per newspaper.

BEST COLUMNIST – To recognize high achievement and dedication to the craft of writing opinion, commentary, criticism, mood, humor, etc. Four samples of the nominee's work are required. Entries are limited to two per newspaper.

BEST EDITORIAL CARTOONIST – To recognize high achievement and dedication to the craft of editorial cartooning. Four samples of the nominee's work are required. Entries are limited to two per newspaper.

BEST EDITORIAL WRITER – To recognize high achievement and dedication to the craft of editorial writing. Four samples of the nominee's work are required. Entries are limited to two per newspaper.

BEST FEATURE WRITER – To recognize high achievement and dedication to the craft of feature writing. Sidebars appearing on the same day as the entry can be considered part of the entry. Four samples of the nominee's work (excluding sidebars) are required. Entries are limited to two per newspaper.

BEST SPORTS FEATURE WRITER – To recognize high achievement and dedication to the craft of sports feature writing. Four samples of the nominee's work are required. Entries are limited to two per newspaper.

BEST GRAPHICS ARTIST – To recognize high achievement and dedication to the craft of graphics artistry in print and/or online. Online entries must be submitted in print form and on a CD or DVD. Four samples of the nominee's work are required. Entries are limited to two per newspaper.

BEST HEADLINE WRITER – To recognize high achievement in headline writing. Four headlines per entry are required, and stories must accompany headlines. Entries are limited to two per newspaper.

BEST NEWS WRITER – To recognize high achievement and dedication to the craft of news writing. Four samples of the nominee's work are required. Entries are limited to two per newspaper.

BEST PHOTOGRAPHER – To recognize high achievement and dedication to the craft of still photography, including online photos, galleries and slide shows. Six samples of the nominee's work are required. Entries are limited to two per newspaper. (See Photography Awards category for submission rules.)

BEST ONLINE PHOTOJOURNALIST – To recognize high achievement and dedication to the craft of online videography and/or online slideshows. Four samples of the nominee's work are required. Provide a URL of the archived entry on the entry form, with printouts a secondary option. Please us a tiny URL or alias. Entries are limited to two per newspaper.

BEST SPORTS COLUMNIST – To recognize high achievement and dedication to the craft of column writing. Four samples of the nominee's work are required. Entries are limited to two per newspaper.

BEST SPORTS WRITER – To recognize high achievement and dedication to the craft of sports writing. Four samples of the nominee's work are required. Entries are limited to two per newspaper.

Sports Awards

BEST DAILY SPORTS SECTION – This award is based on overall excellence of the sports section, including, but not limited to, breadth of coverage, readability, headlines, selection and use of photos, layout and packaging. Each newspaper must submit one issue from each of the following dates in 2009, for a total of four issues:

Mandatory date: Monday, Feb. 2 (Super Bowl coverage)

Select one date from the following three dates:

- Wednesday, Jan. 14 (high school basketball)
- Friday, June 5 (high school sports, Memorial Tournament or Major League Baseball)
- Saturday, Oct. 10 (high school football)

Third and fourth dates selected by the newspaper.

BEST SPORTS EVENT COVERAGE – Sidebar are permitted. Entries are limited to two per newspaper.

BEST SPECIAL SPORTS SECTION – Any section dealing with sports or recreation, such as a special supplement on a high school basketball tournament, a professional football season preview or a look-ahead to the hunting season. Entries are limited to two per newspaper.

BEST SPORTS ENTERPRISE – The entry can be one story, a series, section or developing story. Entries are limited to two per newspaper.

Graphics Awards

BEST ILLUSTRATION – Limited to any drawing, painting, photo, collage or three-dimensional art in any technique, used to illustrate a story or enhance a page. Entries are limited to two per newspaper.